

Throughout the world, the commercial electronics industry converted to lead-free component technology years ago. However, the defense electronics industry here at home remains reliant on lead-based assembly technology.

That's because Defense electronics in a fighter jet have different performance requirements than commercial electronics such as in an iPhone. These defense platforms require a much longer lifespan and the ability to perform in extreme environments.

Our amendment seeks to address the difficulty and cost DOD has experienced in trying to source lead-free electronic technologies, which will only increase as time goes on.

Additionally, without research and investment, our defense industrial base will continue to face challenges incorporating newly developed technologies, ultimately adversely affecting our military readiness.

I urge my colleagues to back our amendment to bolster U.S. efforts to develop lead-free defense electronics and look forward to working with Rep. KUSTER and the defense subcommittee on this issue.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE CITY OF MANASSAS PARK FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize City of Manassas Park Fire and Rescue Department and its outstanding members who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and are the 2019 recipients of the prestigious Prince William Chamber of Commerce Merit Award and Valorous Unit Award for their service. The annual Prince William Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery above and beyond the line of duty exemplified by our public safety and law enforcement professionals.

For the past 33 years, the Prince William Chamber of Commerce has paid tribute to our firefighters, police officers, and emergency personnel for their extraordinary service. These brave men and women put their lives at risk on a daily basis to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. For fire and rescue personnel, no two days are alike. Always on the front lines, the City of Manassas Park Fire and Rescue Department is comprised of three sections: community safety, operations, and support systems.

These dedicated service members of a combination career and volunteer system fight fires, provide emergency medical services, perform rescues, and work in our community to promote fire safety and prevention. In recognition of their acts of valor, it is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the City of Manassas Park Fire and Rescue Department public safety personnel:

Valorous Unit: Battalion Chief Adam Jones—Battalion 589, Captain Josh Brandon—Medic 509, Fire Medic Randy Leach—Engine 509, Fire Medic John Pearre—Medic

509, Master Firefighter David Sullivan—Medic 509, Firefighter/EMT Kentry Snow—Engine 509.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 2019 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Valor Award recipients of the City of Manassas Park Fire and Rescue Department. The selfless acts of heroism by this distinguished group of men and women truly merits our highest praise. I thank each honoree, as well as all City of Manassas Park Fire and Rescue Department public safety professionals for their dedication and commitment to the protection of our communities.

HONORING LINK STRATEGIC PARTNERS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating LINK Strategic Partners on becoming the 2019 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year. This distinction is awarded as part of our 22nd annual District of Columbia Small Business Fair, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

This year, we are proud to honor LINK Strategic Partners, a national strategic communications and stakeholder engagement firm headquartered in Washington, D.C. LINK provides strategic communications and "hyperlocal" community engagement. With a radically different approach to the communications and public relations industry, LINK puts people, relationships and communities first.

LINK began in 2012 with two full-time employees sharing a small office in the Greater Washington Urban League building in the heart of Washington, D.C. In the seven years since then, the firm has grown tenfold in staff, expanded across the nation and opened its first international location. With team members in St. Louis, New York, Phoenix, Maine and Paris, LINK has grown to 300+ clients, \$15 million in awarded contract value and pro bono work of over \$1 million.

LINK specializes in helping clients build mutually beneficial relationships with local communities. Over the past seven years, LINK has evolved its social impact lens, focusing on the power of human connection and supporting clients in connecting with their constituents in ways that will improve the communities they serve. LINK has also demonstrated the value of investing in team members, offering competitive salaries, benefits and professional development opportunities.

Our fair highlights the importance of small businesses to the District's economy. It provides critical information, counseling and resources to aspiring and current D.C. small business owners. Small businesses are a crucial lifeline in our local economy, and the District thrives because of the expanding success of small businesses throughout the District. We thank the Washington Convention Center for hosting us again this year, the workshop experts who are providing valuable information and assistance to aspiring and current small business owners, and, of course, all the participants.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating LINK

Strategic Partners, as well as in celebrating small businesses across the District. In the District and in districts around the country, small businesses continue to make indispensable contributions to our economies and communities.

HONORING THE HONORABLE GERALD "JERRY" A. WORTH FOR HIS 41 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE NORTH COUNTRY AS JUSTICE FOR THE TOWN OF WILTON

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable Gerald A. Worth on his retirement as Justice of the Town of Wilton.

Justice Worth comes from a strong tradition of service to the North Country with both of his parents serving as Justices of the Town of Wilton. His father, the Honorable Wesley Worth, served from 1945 until 1973, and his mother, the Honorable Lillian Worth, served from 1973 until 1976. Justice Worth took up that mantle in 1978 and has dutifully served his community since that day.

Justice Worth has served his country and community in a variety of capacities over the course of his career. Prior to his tenure as Justice, he served the North Country as President of Saratoga County's Magistrates, spent time in the Department of Transportation, and served in the National Guard.

After so many decades of service to our community and our country, Justice Worth deserves nothing less than our deepest gratitude. It is the honor of a lifetime and truly humbling to serve such incredible North Country residents here in Congress. After retirement, Justice Worth is looking forward to time with his family; including his three daughters, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to thank the Honorable Gerald A. Worth for his service to our community and wish him all the happiness in the world as he begins this next chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN MARSHALL MELVIN

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of John Marshall Melvin.

John was a longtime resident of the Ninth District, moving to Jefferson, Georgia, as a young child. After graduating from Jefferson High School, John attended the University of Georgia where he played trumpet in the Dixie Redcoat Band and further cultivated his passion and talent for theater and music.

After graduating from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1965, John and his beloved wife, Mary Louise, moved to South Dakota where he served our country honorably

as a captain in the United States Air Force, working in the Judge Advocates Office. A few years later, he returned to Georgia to begin his 40-year career in real estate law at a firm that would later become Stewart, Melvin & Frost.

Often referred to as “larger than life,” John led a life full of leadership and service. He was an Eagle Scout, a member of Leadership Georgia, and a deacon and elder at First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville, where he taught Sunday School and sang in the choir for over 40 years. John also served as president of the Gainesville Rotary Club from 1988 to 1989 and was recognized as Gainesville Rotary’s Man of the Year in 1999.

John Marshall Melvin leaves behind an honorable legacy of integrity, leadership, and service to his community. He was known around town as a well-respected lawyer, but he will always be remembered first and foremost as a loving husband, father, brother, uncle, and grandfather. John will be greatly missed by many, but his impact will continue to reach generations to come.

On behalf of the people of Northeast Georgia, I hope you will join John’s family in celebrating his remarkable life.

REPORTING ON THE 2019 SPRING
SESSION OF THE NATO PARLIAM-
ENTARY ASSEMBLY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, from May 30 to June 3, 2019, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) held its Spring Session in Bratislava, Slovakia. I led a bipartisan delegation to the Session, which included Representatives MICHAEL TURNER, JOHN SHIMKUS, SUSAN DAVIS, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, JIM COSTA, BRETT GUTHRIE, PAUL COOK, FILEMON VELA, BRENDAN BOYLE, NEAL DUNN, JAMES SENSENBRENNER, and staff.

The NATO PA was founded in 1955 to serve as an inter-parliamentary organization for NATO. The NATO PA brings together the legislators of the NATO Member States to promote awareness and understanding of challenges facing NATO and strengthen the transatlantic relationship.

In February in Brussels, Belgium, we were honored to have the Speaker of the House of Representatives NANCY PELOSI address the gathered delegates of the NATO PA and attend a meeting of the North Atlantic Council. The Speaker conveyed Congress’ unshakable commitment to the Alliance and was received with great warmth.

In early April, NATO celebrated its 70th Anniversary with a meeting of foreign ministers in Washington, DC—the site of the signing of the Washington Treaty in April 1949. On April 3, 2019, in observance of the 70th Anniversary, Mr. TURNER and I introduced H. Res. 286, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States remains committed to NATO. On April 4, 2019, at the invitation of Speaker NANCY PELOSI, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg addressed a Joint Meeting of the two houses of Congress, the first head of a multilateral organization to deliver such an address.

On April 25, 2019, NATO’s 100th Rose-Roth Seminar was held in Brussels, Belgium. To recognize this milestone, Ripley Rand, former United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina, spoke to commemorate and reflect on the work of his godfather and co-founder of the seminars, Congressman Charlie Rose of North Carolina.

On May 30, 2019, in Bratislava, NATO PA convened its Spring Session to conduct the committee work of the NATO PA.

The Defense and Security Committee heard three reports. Joseph Day of Canada gave a report on modernization of arms control and Allied nuclear forces, which mentioned NATO’s new nuclear deterrence policy and how this has paved the way for a potential new era of rearmament and potentially destabilizing arms race. Another report was given by Mr. Nicholas Soames of the United Kingdom on NATO’s ‘Evolving Security in the North Atlantic,’ which discussed five recommendations to help secure Allied interests and activities in the North Atlantic. Lara Martinho of Portugal delivered a report on NATO exercises and investments, which among other things identified opportunities for investment Member States can take to improve mobility of the military.

The Economics and Security Committee heard a report from Ausrine Armonait of Lithuania on North Macedonia, NATO’s soon to be 30th member. The head of Norway’s delegation, Christian Tybring-Gjedde, gave a report on how economic sanctions can be used as a tool for foreign policy and considers the conditions under which these tools can be effective. The committee also received a report from Jean-Marie Bockel of France on the impact of digital technology on the global economy and international trade in North America and Europe.

The Science and Technology Committee heard from three reports. One from Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS on “NATO in the Cyber Age: Strengthening Security & Defence, Stabilising Deterrence,” which described the growing importance of cyber security to NATO’s defense capabilities. Matej Tonin, the head of Slovenia’s delegation, delivered a report on artificial intelligence, which discussed the challenges and opportunities presented by military uses for artificial intelligence and global artificial intelligence research and development. Finally, the report “NATO Anti-Submarine Warfare: Rebuilding Capability, Preparing for the Future,” was presented by Leona Alleslev of Canada.

The Political Committee heard three reports. I presented my report, “NATO at 70: Why the Alliance Remains Indispensable,” which stressed that NATO’s success over the past 70 years is not only due to its military capabilities, but also the fact that it is an alliance underpinned by common values. This emphasis on shared values has been pivotal in maintaining Alliance cohesion for seven decades, and it will be decisive for continued success. The Alliance must continue to insist that Allies uphold the founding democratic principles of the Alliance and consider support for democratic institutions as a condition for continued and future membership in the Alliance. Julio Calha of Portugal delivered the report “Security and Stability in Africa—Challenges and Opportunities for NATO.” Also, Raynell Andreychuk of Canada presented a report on NATO’s relations with Russia, addressing

Russia’s likely confrontational attitude toward NATO, as well as areas where NATO and Russia have common areas of interest that could be developed.

Finally, the Civil Dimension of Security Committee heard a report from Ulla Schmidt of Germany, which reaffirmed the Alliance’s values. The report explored NATO’s historical commitment to democratic institutions and outlines recent challenges to these values. The committee also heard a report from Jane Cordy of Canada, examining Ukraine five years after the Revolution of Dignity. Finally, Lord Jopling of the United Kingdom, presented a report that emphasized that border security has become a top priority for many NATO Allies and examined border management strategies on both sides of the Atlantic.

During the Spring Session, the United States Delegation also met with the Speaker of the Slovakian Parliament Andrej Danko and was hosted by the German delegation for a bilateral working lunch.

I want to thank the members of the U.S. Delegation who work hard to support the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and in doing so demonstrate a steadfast commitment to transatlantic security and maintaining a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace. I also want to recognize the incredible support the NATO PA and our delegation receive from the Speaker of the House. It is noticed and appreciated on both sides of the Atlantic. Our delegation will continue its work in London in October at the 2019 Annual Session of the NATO PA.

HONORING CLYDE “ERNIE” HIERS
AND HIS 39 YEAR CAREER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Clyde “Ernie” Hiers on his 39 years of service to our communities as Fire Chief in Temple Terrace, Florida and the City of Kannapolis, located in North Carolina’s Eighth Congressional District.

Over the years, Ernie has made countless contributions to our community. He started his career in 1980 as a driver for Temple Terrace Fire Department at age 21 and retires today as Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator at Kannapolis Fire Department.

Ernie is known throughout the community for his big smile, endless supply of jokes, and passion for service. Through his leadership, Kannapolis Fire Department has experienced a time of unprecedented growth. Ernie saw the number of firefighters rise from 33 to 84 on any given shift, transitioned to an all paid staff, and implemented thermal imaging and sophisticated 911 systems. Exemplary of his prowess, Kannapolis Fire Department constructed two new replacement stations and improved Insurance Service Office (ISO) ratings for the City.

Ernie now plans to spend more time with his wife, Dora and their family, travel more, and to partake in his favorite hobby of serving as a Kansas City Barbeque Society Master Judge. I know I speak for everyone in the community when I say we are truly grateful for his unwavering service and cannot thank him enough. I